(c) and (d) Indo-US relations today are multifaceted with cooperation in diverse fields. Differences continue on some issues, on which both Governments seek to continue discussions. Government have conveyed India's position on the developments referred to in (a) and (b) above, to the US Government. Government have also issued a statement expressing concern at the amendment to the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 passed by the US Senate. Government have conveyed unambiguously that removing existing restrictions on US military and economic assistance to Pakistan could be seen as an encouragement to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes. These developments have serious implications for India's security.

(e) Government remain committed to take all steps necessary to safeguard India's national interest and security.

Amarnath Yatra

3514. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of Dr. Sengupta Committee have been implemented for smooth running of Amarnath Yatra:

(b) if so, the details of the co-ordinating agency between the different agencies working for the success of doing co-ordination Amarnath Yatra;

(c) whether Union Government have constituted any board in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have taken all appropriate proparatory steps in keeping with the recommendations made by Dr. Nitish K. Sengupta in his report for ensuring a smooth Yatra this year. The recommendations made by Dr. Sengupta in his report include a close coordination between the State Government and the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Government of India such as Ministry of Defence, Department of Telecommunications and the Indian Maeorological Department. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have accordingly taken all appropriate steps in coordination with the concerned Ministries at the Centre for ensuring a smooth and safe yatra.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Union Government has not constituted any Board in this regard. However, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir have set up an Amarnath Yatra Board, headed by the Minister for Tourism with effect from 23.4.1997.

Disarmament Report

3515. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has since been invited to the report on disarmament prepared by the Bonn International Centre for Conversation (BICC) with the assistance of several UN institutions and North Rine Westfelia Federal State; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen the report "Conversion Survey 1997" brought out by BICC. The BICC was established in 1994 to carry out research on issues relating to Conversion. The 1997 Survey focuses specifically on global disarmament issues and disposal of surplus weapons.

Visa to Pakistani Citizens

3516. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of citizens of Pakistan who have applied for Visa to visit the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons given Visa to Visit Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether residents of Pakistan occupied Kashmir who want to visit Jammu and Kashmir are required to get permission from Delhi to proceed to Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) During the past one year (1.7.96 to 30.6.97) our Mission in Islamabad granted 61,749 visas to Pakistani nationals for visiting various placed in India, including Jammu and Kashmir. It is not customary for visa issuing authorities to keep state-wise records of visas granted to foreign nationals.

(c) and (d) Visiting Pakistani nationals are required to obtain visas for all places in India they intend to visit from the Indian Mission granting the visa. Some categories of cases require to be processed in Delhi. These general procedures apply to visits to Jammu and Kashmir too.